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TOHAK 239

MAY 18, 1974

PLEASE DELIVER TO BREMER/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

REF: TOHAK 236 AND 238

SUBJECT: MORE ON WIRETAPPING STORY

MIAMI HERALD CARRIED LONGER VERSION OF KNIGHT NEWS SERVICE
WIRETAPPING STORY THAN THAT SENT TO YOU FROM BALTIMORE SUN. HERALD
VERSION SAME AS SUN BUT CARRIES FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPHS:

BEGIN TEXT:

BY THIS TIME ELLIOT RICHARDSON HAD BECOME ATTORNEY GENERAL AND
WILLIAM RUCKELSHAUS TEMPORARY HEAD OF THE FBI.

THE TWO MADE AN INTENSIVE STUDY OF THE WIRETAP PROGRAM AND DISCUS-
SED IT IN DETAIL BEFORE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE IN CONNECTION
WITH KISSINGER'S CONFIRMATION. THIS WAS BEFORE BOTH WERE FIRED BY
NIXON IN THE FAMOUS SATURDAY NIGHT MASSACRE OF OCTOBER.

IN THEIR TESTIMONY THEY APPEARED TO GIVE KISSINGER A CLEAN BILL OF
HEALTH ON THE WIRETAPS, ALTHOUGH RICHARDSON SAID AT ONE POINT THAT HE
HAD HAD TO RELY ON DR. KISSINGER'S OWN RECOLLECTION OF WHAT OCCURRED,
AS TO WHICH OF COURSE, HE IS A BETTER WITNESS THAN WE ARE."

RICHARDSON TOLD THE COMMITTEE: "AS BEST CAN BE DETERMINED FROM FBI
RECORDS, DR. KISSINGER'S ROLE INCLUDED EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER LEAKS
OF SENSITIVE MATERIAL AND WHEN THIS CONCERN WAS COUPLED WITH
THAT OF THE PRESIDENT AND TRANSMITTED TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE
FBI, IT LED TO EFFORTS TO STEM THE LEAKS,
WHICH EFFORTS INCLUDED SOME WIRETAPS OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND
NEWSMEN.

"HIS ROLE FURTHER INVOLVED THE SUPPLYING TO THE FBI OF NAMES OF IN-
DIVIDUALS IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO HAD ACCESS TO SENSITIVE INFORMATION
AND OCCASIONAL REVIEW OF INFORMATION GENERATED BY THE PROGRAM TO
DETERMINE ITS USEFULNESS."

HE SAID ANY FURTHER ELABORATION OF KISSINGER'S ROLE WOULD HAVE TO
COME FROM KISSINGER.

RICHARDSON WAS ASKED BY SEN. J. WILLIAM FULBRIGHT (D. ARK.)

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CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE: "DOES IT APPEAR THAT DR. KISSINGER WENT TO THE PRESIDENT AND ASKED FOR THESE TAPS?"

RICHARDSON REPLIED: "NO."

FULBRIGHT: "HE DID NOT INITIATE THE IDEA OF ASKING FOR THE TAPS?"

RICHARDSON: "NO, UNLESS IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT YOU HAVE TO TAKE TOGETHER THE (FBI) REPORT WHICH UNDERTAKES TO REFLECT WHAT THE RECORDS SHOW, AND DR. KISSINGER'S OWN RECOLLECTION OF WHAT OCCURED."

RICHARDSON SAID THAT THERE WERE "REQUESTS FOR WIRETAPS OF IDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS, IN ONE CASE BY DR. KISSINGER AND N TWO INSTANCES BY HIS DEPUTY THEN COL. (ALEXANDER) HAIG." (HAIG IS NOW WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF.)

THE CONTEXT OF THIS STATEMENT BY RICHARDSON WAS THAT KISSINGER AND HAIG WERE SUPPLYING NAMES OF PERSONS WHO WERE KNOWN TO HAVE ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN A PROGRAM THAT WAS ESSENTIALLY OUT OF THEIR HANDS.

THE WHITE HOUSE HAS SAID THAT MATERIAL DELETED FROM TRANSCRIPTS MADE PUBLIC BY NIXON WAS MATERIAL NOT RELATED TO WATERGATE.

JUDGE JOHN SIRICA HOWEVER APPARENTLY BELIEVED THAT THESE PARAGRAPHS WERE RELATED TO WATERGATE IN A BROAD SENSE BECAUSE IT WAS HE WHO SENT THE TAPE OF THE FEB. 28 CONVERSATION TO THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE.

JUDGE SIRICA ANNOUNCED THAT HE HAD REMOVED EVERYTHING FROM THE TAPES SENT TO THE COMMITTEE THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE WAS RELEVANT TO THE WATERGATE IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY.

END OF TEXT.

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